

A new cavernicolous species of *Seracamaurops* WINKLER, 1925 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) from Caucasus

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A new cavernicolous species of *Seracamaurops* WINKLER, 1925 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) from Caucasus. - *Seracamaurops komarovi* sp.n., a cavernicolous species of Amauropini from the Nazarovskaja cave system in the Alek karst mountains chain, western Caucasus is described and illustrated.

Key-words: Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Pselaphinae - Amauropini - cave fauna - Caucasus.

INTRODUCTION

JEANNEL (1948) erected the tribe Amauropini, spelled incorrectly Amauropsini to accommodate a group of Batrisinae which are usually anophtalmous and have in common a large first exposed abdominal tergite, long appendages and convex elytra without foveae. Members of Amauropini are known from the northern and eastern part of the Mediterranean basin, from France to Greece, Anatolia and Lebanon, and in eastern United States. The group includes currently 117 species in 12 genera, one of which, with 33 species, is Nearctic (NEWTON & CHANDLER 1989, Löbl pers. comm.).

The genus *Seracamaurops* Winkler, 1925 has been studied by BESUCHET (1986). Currently it includes seven species: *S. fodori* (Székessy, 1943); *S. frieseni* (Winkler, 1925); *S. fritschi* Besuchet, 1986; *S. grabowskii* (Müller, 1926); *S. grandis* (Winkler, 1925); *S. novaki* Svirčev, 1936 and *S. weiratheri* (Reitter, 1913). They are characterised by the absence of eyes (ocular spines are also absent or minute), slender legs and relatively long antennae. All are strict cave dwelling, and known only from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BESUCHET 1986).

A new species of *Seracamaurops* was recently discovered in the western Caucasus and is described below.

ACRONYMS

KSAU - Kuban State Agrarian University collection, Krasnodar, Russia; ZIN - Zoologiceskij Institut, St. Petersburg, Russia; MHNG - Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève; CPH - P. Hlaváč collection, Ružomberok, Slovakia; CAK - A. Koval collection, St. Petersburg, Russia.

***Seracamaurops komarovi* sp. n.**

Figs 1-24

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♀: "W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. R., Baribana Cave, 22.viii.1996, leg. A.G.Koval", ZIN; Paratypes 1♂, 6 ♀♀: "W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. R., Baribana Cave, Traps, 22.viii.1996 - 19.viii.1997, leg. A.G.Koval, CPH, CAK, ZIN; 1 ♀ in toto: "W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. R., Baribana Cave, Traps, 7.v. - 22.viii.1996, leg. A.G.Koval", CPH; 1 ♀: "Russia, W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. range, Baribana cave, traps, 4.vi.1995-7.v.1996, leg. A.G.Koval", MHNG; 1 ♀: "W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. Range, Baribana cave, 2.v.96, Zamotajlov & Mirosnikov", KSAU; 1 ♀: "Russia, W Caucasus, Sochi, Alek Mt. range, Baribana cave, traps, 7.v.-22.viii.1996, leg. A.G.Koval", CAK. Other material examined: 1♂, 2♀♀: the same locality as type material, incomplete and damaged, not included in type series, CPH.

DESCRIPTION. Body length 3.80 - 4.20 mm, combined width of elytra 1.03 - 1.13 mm. colour uniform dark reddish-brown. pubescence relatively dense.

Head (figs 1, 2) elongate, 1.6 times as long as wide, strongly flattened dorsoventrally; surface finely punctured, punctures more closely spaced laterally and anteriorly, much smaller than intervals, setigerous; dorsal setae about half as long as scapus, semi-erect; lateral and ventrolateral setae erect and as long or longer than scapus. Labrum short, anterior margin emarginate, anterolateral angles produced, surface finely punctured near anterior margin, punctures with short prone setae and with a few long setae on anterolateral portion; anterior margin of frontoclypeus roof-like in dorsal view, raised and continuous with ventrolateral carina which extends to fine ocular spine (see in lateral view). Median carina of vertex low, reaching nearly middle of cranium anteriorly, and about basal fourth posteriorly; neck with fine low carina on posterior half; foveae of vertex deep, lying in admedian longitudinal impressions on each side of vertexal carina; supraantennal prominence strong and large, extending nearly to middle of cranium posteriad, mesally separated by a distance about equal to a maximum width of one protuberance; tempora long, sub-parallel then arcuately convergent posteriad, with long erect setae. Venter punctured more strongly than dorsum, especially in anterolateral halves; gular suture carinate along anterior half (fig. 2); tentorial pits deep, lying in round depression slightly posteriad middle; cardo (figs 4, 5) with elliptical porous area. Maxillary palpi (figs 6, 7) long and thin; first segment minuscule; second long, 2.7 times as long as third segment, both expanded distad; fourth segment longest, about 5 times as long as wide, widest near middle; palpal spine short and slender, about 0.13 times as long as terminal segment. Antenna distinctly longer than the combined median length of head and pronotum, all segments distinctly longer than wide; scape 1.7 times as long and 1.5 times as wide as pedicell (fig. 3), latest subcylindrical; segments 3 and 4 slightly longer than pedicell; segment 5 about as long as scape; segments 7 and 9 1.2 times as long as segments 6, 7 and 10; apical segment about 1.6 times as long as scape.

Thorax. Pronotum (figs 8, 9) moderately longer than wide, widest near middle, slightly wider than head; lateral margin arcuate; surface finely punctate, punctures much smaller than intervals, setigerous, setae shorter than those on vertex, semi-erect; median sulcus rather shallow, not sharply delimited, widest at basal third, reaching middle, on each side with small spine-like denticle near basal fourth; base with two pairs of small, admesal foveae; sublateral foveae at basal third deep. Scutellum (fig. 11) shield-shaped, anterior margin sinuate; surface smooth on anterior third with scale-like sculpture on posterior 0.6. Elytra (fig. 10) moderately convex dorsally, slightly longer than wide, finely and regularly punctured, setae as long as on pronotum; posterior margin truncate, posterolateral angle arcuate. Mesosternum (fig. 13) about twice as wide as mesoepisternum, on anterior half with large, round, deep depression, the bottom rather densely punctate, setose; lateral mesosternal foveae deep; posterior two thirds shiny. Metasternum about as long as mesosternum, punctured as pronotum, interstices shiny; prebasal median impression rounded, moderately deep. Legs (figs 14-17) long and slender. Profemora widest slightly distad of middle, about as long as elytra; surface finely punctured, punctures bearing prone setae; anteroventral portion with row of short, regularly spaced vertical ribs, these bordered by short, erect ventral setae. Mesotrochanters with ventrodiscal tooth in males. Mesofemora moderately longer than profemur, moderately expanded, dorsal outline arcuate in females and males, ventral arcuate in females, rather straight and with strong tooth at proximal third in males. Metafemora longest, widened from proximal third, widest near two thirds of femur length. Tibiae subequal in length with femora, densely setose and moderately thickened on distal half, protibiae moderately curved, meso- and metatibiae rather straight.

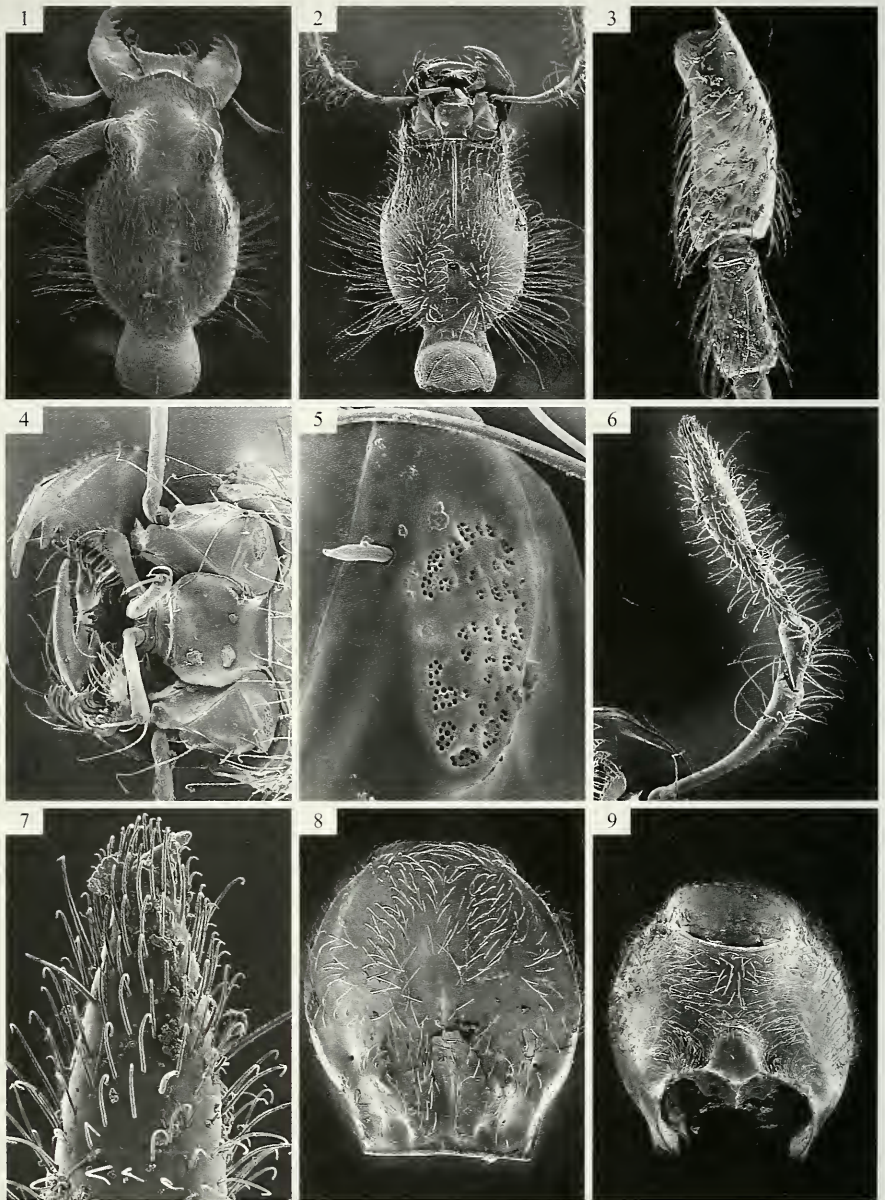
Abdomen (figs 10, 12, 18-22) very finely, evenly punctured and pubescent, except for rather strongly punctured terminal segment. First exposed tergite slightly shorter than combined length of three following segments; with fine sublateral carina extending nearly to middle; lateral margin produced into strong lamina on anterior half; surface impressed near sublateral carinae, with flat nearly triangular basal tubercles on lateral third. Aedeagus (figs 23-24) elongate, about three times as long as wide across basal bulb, asymmetrical.

MALE SEXUAL CHARACTERS. Mesotrochanters with a ventrodiscal tooth, mesofemora with strong ventral tooth at proximal third.

ETYMOLOGY. Patronymic, dedicated to Mr. J.N. Komarov, Sochi, Russia for his kind assistance during many expeditions of third author in Caucasus.

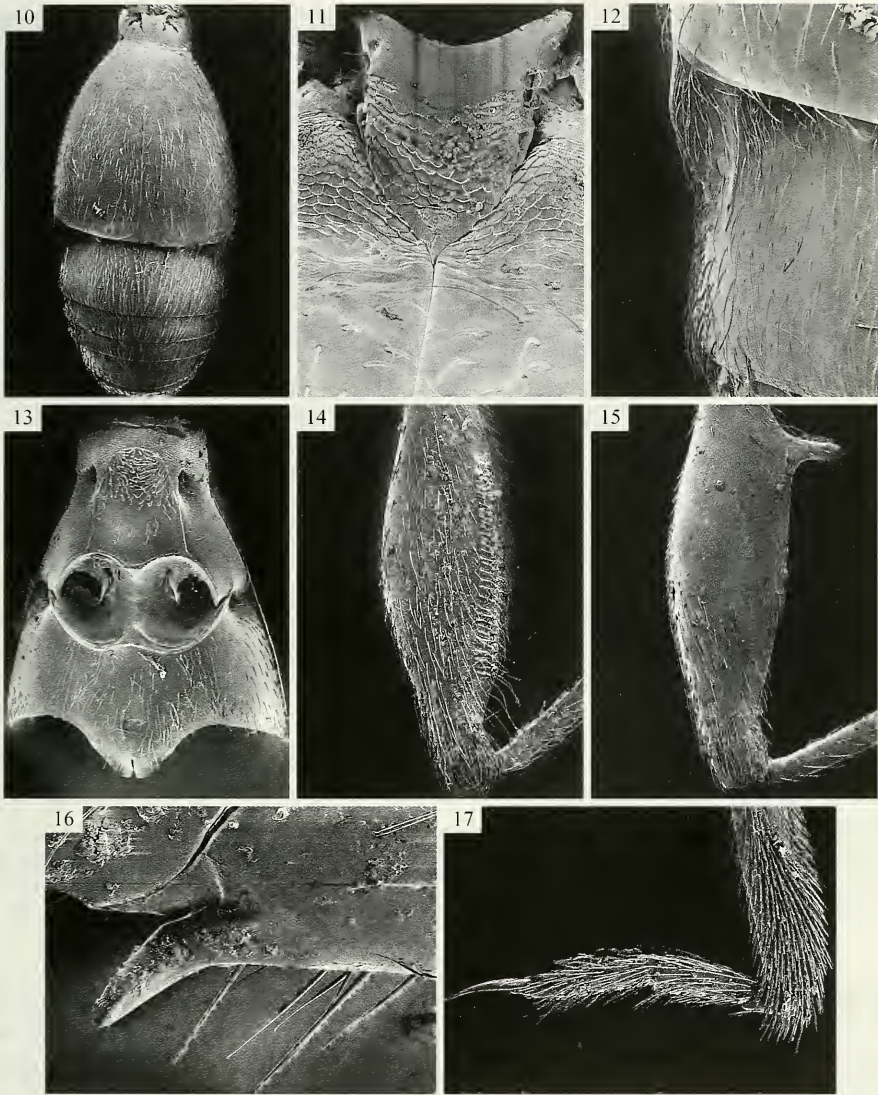
HABITAT. Baribana cave (Russia, western Caucasus, Alek karst mountains chain, upper part of river Zapadnaja Malaja Chosta) in the Nazarovskaja cave system - length 110 m, deep 20 m, surface 700 m², volume 8800 m³. All specimens have been found in the end of cave (110 m from entrance, temperature 8° C) at the same humid place together with many Collembola.

DIAGNOSIS. *Seracamaurops komarovi* can be distinguished from other members of *Seracamaurops* by the following combination of characters: (1) presence of median pronotal sulcus reaching the middle of pronotum which is flanked by pair of spines; (2) fourth segment of maxillary palpi very long, about 5 times as long as wide:



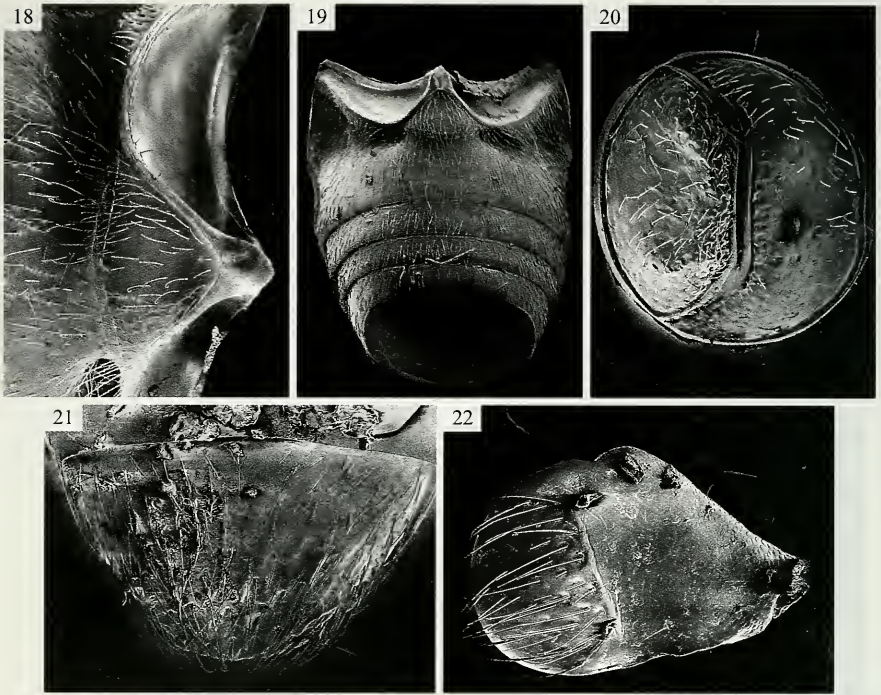
FIGS 1-9

Seracamauirops komarovi sp.n., female; (1) head, dorsal view; (2) head, ventral view; (3) antenna, scape and pedicel, lateral view; (4) mouth parts, ventral view; (5) sensory area of cardo, ventral view; (6) maxillary palpus, ventral view; (7) terminal segment of maxillary palpus, dorsal view; (8) pronotum, dorsal view; (9) pronotum, ventral view.



FIGS 10-17

Seracamauops komarovi sp.n.; (10) elytra and abdomen, dorsal view; (11) scutellum, dorsal view; (12) lateral portion of first tergite, dorsal view; (13) meso- and metathorax, ventral view; (14) profemur in female, anterior face; (15) mesofemur in male, posterior face; (16) mesotrochanter in male, posterior view; (17) mesotarsus in female, posterior view.



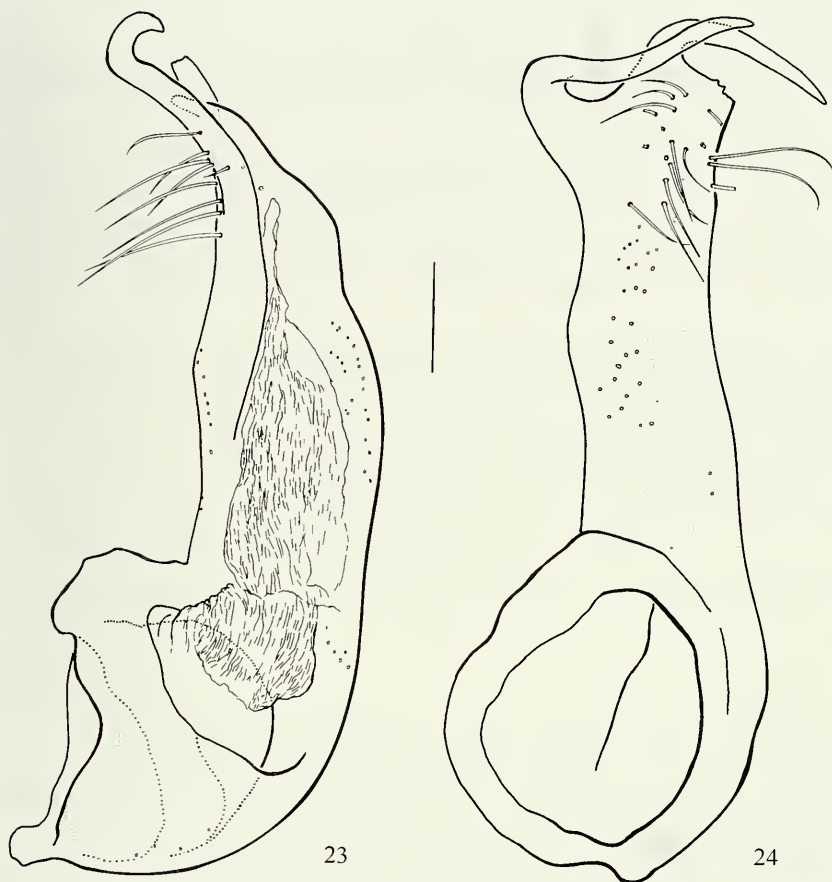
FIGS 18-22

Seracamaurops komarovi sp.n.: (18) medial part of first ventrite in female, ventral view; (19) abdomen in female, terminal segments removed, ventral view; (20) terminal, exposed segments in female, posterior view; (21) terminal ventrite in male, ventral view; (22) Ventrite VII (morphological sternite IX).

(3) lateral margin of first exposed tergite produced into strong lamina at anterior half; (4) sublateral carina reaching the middle of first exposed tergite; (5) basomedian and basolateral foveae of first exposed tergite absent; (6) presence of mesotibial tooth in males; (7) presence of small tooth on mesotrochanter in males.

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FIGS 23-24

Seracamauops komarovi sp.n., male; (23) aedeagus of holotype, medio-apical projection missing, lateral view; (24) aedeagus of paratype, short latero-apical projection missing, ventral view. Scale = 0.1 mm.

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